HOLLYWOOD & NASHVILLE RESIDENTIAL STUDIES PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

WHAT IS IT? The Hollywood and Nashville Residential Studies program is a long-running for-credit internship program run by the College of Mass Communication and Media Arts which helps connect students with internships in the two cities and includes pre-arranged housing. Students accepted into the program will work closely with the internship coordinator to secure an internship in a field of media that is of interest to them.

Over the past two summers, internship providers that partnered with the program included American Film Institute’s Directing Workshop for Women, Make it Happen Productions, Tremolo Productions, Omni Sound Studio, Forty-One Fifteen Studio, Crazy Horse (VFX), Tennessee Sports Hall of Fall, Brand Imaging Group, GSF Advertising Agency, Digital Audio Post, RFD-TV, Joan Allen Photography, NewsChannel 5 Nashville, Trium Productions, and others.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATING IN THIS PROGRAM?

- Detailed feedback on your resume and other internship application materials and coaching on interviewing
- Hand’s on support securing an internship (a professional to help research opportunities for/with you, help sell you to intern sites, and regularly check in with you to ensure you are making progress on your search)
- Temporary housing in LA or Nashville for the specific dates of SIU summer term (can sometimes be challenging to find on your own!)
- Get to know fellow interns from SIU in your location
- Periodic outings and alumni meet and greets built into program
- No separate application to receive internship credit. If you are accepted to the program, you are approved to register for summer internship credits in your MCMA major
- A training session on making the most of your internship and setting realistic expectations, as well as a formal check-in halfway through the program to discuss your progress

HOW DOES THE PROCESS WORK?

Each student will submit a request broadly indicating the area in which they are interested in completing an internship (i.e., commercial photography, video post-production, ad agency—design, production, scriptwriting, development, etc.). Every attempt is made to help students secure internships with sponsors in their preferred internship area. All internships are monitored for quality. Students will have the final say regarding whether or not to accept a placement, but should not expect to be placed in a particular company or niche area. Internships in these cities are very competitive so there are no guarantees. The process will begin in February and continue up end of spring semester. Students who have worked consistently on their placements and have not secured an internship by the end of spring term will have their program/housing fees will be refunded.

Students should strive to make their resumes competitive and be prepared to accept reasonable opportunities to gain experience. Media field internships are generally unpaid and interns are expected to be available for work as needed. Some interns will work traditional work hours; however, the media business often involves non-traditional and long hours. Interns should be prepared for varying work scenarios. Competition for internships is very high, and most sponsors will require a phone or Skype interview before agreeing to accept an intern. Individual interns will be notified immediately if a sponsor is interested in arranging an interview. Students are required to keep in touch with internship coordinator and respond to correspondence in the timely fashion.

ADMISSION QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS:

- Applicants must be a student in one of MCMA’s departments (exceptions periodically granted for closely related areas such as music business) and wanting an internship in the media/media arts field.
- Students must have junior standing by the end of spring semester.
- Minimum 2.75 Overall SIU GPA (OR letter of explanation about GPA if under 2.75)
- This is a for-credit, residential program. If you are not interested in taking an internship for credit or living in the provided housing, this probably is not the best fit for you.

A completed application consists of the following:

- Completely filled out application form
- Minimum of two recommendations (letter and contact information)—a least one from a faculty member in your major and preferably one from a work or RSO supervisor
- Copy of unofficial transcripts from SalukiNet
- Letter of explanation about GPA if under 2.75

Admission to the Residential Program is selective. Students will be interviewed by committee as part of the application process. Application packets will be sent to students who signed in after the workshop.
ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS: Academic credit based internships all involve an academic component such as a final paper. Journalism students must secure a faculty member to be their instructor of record for their internships. The instructor of record for all Radio, Television, and Digital Media and Cinema and Photography students is the department chair. It is the students’ responsibility to contact their instructors of record in advance to find out the paper requirements, deadlines, and submission details before leaving for their internships.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES REGARDING APPLICATION & PLACEMENT:
♦ Meet all deadlines related to application materials, charges, registration, and faculty sponsor.
♦ Attend mandatory program-related events.
♦ Actively participate in the process and respond to all emails promptly. Failure to participate (e.g., ignoring a sponsor’s request for an interview or failing to interview at a scheduled date and time) is grounds for dismissal from the program and may result in the loss of fees paid for the program.
♦ Notify the Internship Coordinator if and when an interview and an internship are secured or declined.

GENERAL TIMELINE:
By mid-November: Application packets available
Mid-late January: Completed application packets due
Early February: Notification as to which students have been selected + first internship meeting to discuss process
February-April: Placement discussions and interviews with employers
Early March: First payment of housing/program fee (1/3 of option selected or total payment) due
Late March: Second payment of housing/program fee due
April TBD Summer Financial Aid Applications due to Financial Aid Office (if desired)
APRIL TBD Third and final payment of housing/program fee due.

FOR DATES OF SIU SUMMER TERM: Work at internship placements

ESTIMATED COSTS FOR PARTICIPATION:
LA: Housing/Program Fee = $ 2,450.00*  
Nashville: $2,000*  
Credit tuition and fees: $1,354.36 for 3 credits** (students can take 1-6 credit hours)
L.A. ONLY Approximate Travel Costs (Round-Trip Air) = $ 400.00
L.A. ONLY Rental Car if Needed – DEPENDENT ON AGE (At least $700/month)
In-City Transportation Allowance = $ 200.00
Meals And Entertainment = $ 1,500.00 (estimated at $25 per day for sixty days)
*Estimated costs for double room (shared bedroom with own bed) based on recent years. Final costs for each year are subject to change and will be made available to students prior to applying. Single rooms will incur significant additional costs, if desired. We were able to reduce program and housing fee the last two years and strive to keep the program as affordable as possible.
** Tuition will vary depending on date of enrollment at SIU and number of credit hours ranging from 1 to 6.
***Public transportation in Los Angeles is a challenge and not a practical alternative for interns. Students must have their own cars or rent a car for the duration of their stay in Los Angeles. Special rates and exceptions for age limits for SIU Hollywood Studies internship participants have been arranged with a local Enterprise Rent-A-Car Office. Students under the age of 21 must pay an extra per day fee for underage drivers. Students must have individual transportation arrangements made before the beginning of the program. Carpooling to intern sites is discouraged. An individual’s total cost will vary greatly with increased or decreased transportation, tuition credits, meals, and entertainment expenditures.

Financial aid may be used for SIU-sponsored travel/study programs in the summer if students meet the requirements. All students must have a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) on file for the academic year. Generally, the only types of financial aid available during the summer are loans or scholarships. In order to receive a loan (if eligible), students must be enrolled for a minimum number of six (6) credit hours for undergraduates or three (3) credit hours for graduates. There is a maximum loan amount that students can take out during each academic year and for each academic level. If students have any questions, they should contact their financial aid advisor at (618) 453-4334.

MCMA students may apply for the competitive Joe Foote Off Campus Study Scholarship. The students who submit the Foote application are the pool of candidates for any funds that become available throughout the spring. Scholarship applications are due on the last Friday of January. Please note that this scholarship is NOT enough to cover the program/housing fee, and students should not expect to rely on this for that cost. Only one or two students total will be awarded the scholarship each year.